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TALKING POINTS

DoD talking points
on Secretary Weinberger's
use of the NSC

- SUBJECT: (S) The necessity of raising the defense issue prominently but privately in the President's discussions with Prime Minister Nakasone
- ISSUE: (S) U.S. national policy (NSDD 62) calls for Japan to reach its defense goals within this decade, a task which cannot be accomplished without significant increases in Japan's defense efforts.
- BACKGROUND: (S) Although the final draft talking points on defense for the President's meeting with the Prime Minister are satisfactory, it is critically important that the defense issue be prominently raised by the President in private with the Prime Minister lest Nakasone think that in an election year we are interested only in trade issues, not in defense.
- (S) Since there will be no defense representative on the trip to monitor the issues being raised, it is important to flag defense as an important topic at this NSC meeting.
- DISCUSSION: (S) PM Nakasone is the first Prime Minister in postwar Japan history to understand and support the defense issue.
- (S) The Prime Minister needs to be reinforced in his conviction that the threat is serious and Japan needs to play a defense role.
- (S) The President's strong but private urging that Nakasone take significant measures to achieve Japan's defense goals which we support (NSDD 62) will be important toward stimulating Japanese action in this area.
- POSITION: (S) The DoD position is that defense should be a prominent but private subject in the U.S.-Japan summit.

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